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Vital statistics of Havana for February, 1901—Comparison with preceding years and with other cities.

HAVANA, CUBA, March 6, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith the vital statistics for the month of February, 1901.

It is with pleasure that I again call the attention of the general commanding to our steadily decreasing death rate, which I consider a most reliable indication of our steadily improving sanitary condition. It will be seen from the report that the deaths in the month just ended were very much fewer than in any February of which we have any reliable record, the minimum being that of 1893, when we had 446 deaths, and the maximum that of 1898, when we had 1,602. This is not only less than any February since 1890, but actually less than any month of the preceding twelve years, the lowest in any month being 444 deaths, in November, 1900. The average for the ten years succeeding 1890 was 746 deaths.

The rate per 1,000—19.32—makes even a better showing: The last February of the Spanish rule—1898—gave us a death rate of 82.32 per 1,000. February of 1901, the third February under American rule, give us a death rate of 19.32. This is a very creditable death rate, and places Havana in the class of healthy cities of the world. Many of the cities of the United States and Europe have a higher mortality rate than this. According to the latest figures which I can secure from the marine-hospital reports, * * * Cincinnati, population 326,000, for the week ended January 25 had 142 deaths—death rate, 22.65; Boston, population, 560,892, for the week ended January 26 had 260 deaths—death rate, 24.10; * * * population, 17,201, for the week ended January 19 had 16 deaths; Newark, N. J., population, 246,070, for the week ended January 19 had 107 deaths—death rate, 22.61; New Orleans, population, 287,000, for the week ended January 19 had 156 deaths—death rate, 28.26; New York, population, 3,437,202, for the week ended January 26 had 1,432 deaths—death rate, 22.42; Washington, population, 278,719, for the week ended January 19 had 141 deaths—death rate, 26.60; Belfast, Ireland, for the week ended January 5 had 165 deaths, with a death rate of 23.90; and Mobile, population, 38,469, for the week ended January 16 had 22 deaths—death rate, 29.73. It will be seen that most of the cities have a much higher death rate than Havana.

Jacksonville, Mobile, and New Orleans, all have a higher death rate than Havana, and I have no doubt that we would find such to be the case with other gulf cities if we could get statistics on the subject. At present they look upon Havana with suspicion, but I think that in the near future Havana will have to guard against them.

Taking cities in the yellow-fever areas, such as New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola, Tampa, Key West, and Havana, those in bad sanitary condition, as shown by their high death rate, would be more likely to become infected than a city such as Havana, which is in first class condition, as shown by the low death rate. I think it probable that within a year or two Havana will have to take steps to protect itself from the above-named cities.

During February of 1900, we had 17 new cases of yellow fever; in February of 1901, we had 8 new cases. As the number of nonimmunes was very much larger in February of this than in that of last year, I think the showing is very encouraging.

Besides disinfecting the houses with formalin and other disinfectants, we now screen the rooms occupied by a yellow-fever patient as soon as

his case is reported, and kill all the mosquitoes in the building with the fumes of pyrethrum powder, at the same time covering with kerosene oil all places where the mosquitoes can breed about the building. We also kill the mosquitoes in all the adjoining buildings in the same way.

With these measures and the steps we are taking to kill the mosquitoes in the suburbs, I hope to markedly decrease the yellow fever during the coming summer.

Respectfully,

W. C. GORGAS,

Major and Surgeon, U. S. A., Chief Sanitary Officer.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Department of Cuba.

Inspection of immigrants at Havana during the week ended March 9, 1901.

HAVANA, CUBA, *March 9, 1901.*

SIR: I herewith submit report of alien steerage passengers arriving at this port during the week ended March 9, 1901:

Date.	Vessel.	Where from.	No. of immigrants.
Mar. 3	Steamship Alfonso XII.	Santander and Corunna, Spain	277
Do....	Steamship Segurança	New York	10
Mar. 4	Steamship Cataluña	Spain, Canary Islands, and Porto Rico	251
Do....	Steamship Excelsior	New Orleans	8
Do....	Steamship Prince Edward	Miami	4
Mar. 5	Steamship Julia	Porto Rico	11
Do....	Steamship Seneca	Campeche, Vera Cruz, and Progreso	32
Do....	Steamship Morro Castle	New York	8
Do....	Steamship Syria	Ponce, P. R.	1
Mar. 6	Steamship Olivette	Tampa, Fla.	1
Mar. 8	Steamship Lafayette	St. Nazaire and Spain	121
Mar. 9	Steamship Olivette	Tampa, Fla.	1
	Total		725

Respectfully,

F. E. TROTTER.

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Executive Officer.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report of immigrants inspected at the port of Havana, Cuba, during the month of February, 1901.

Total number of immigrants inspected, 1,341; number passed, 1,337; number certified for deportation on account of dangerous contagious or loathsome diseases, or for other physical causes, 4.

Disposition of immigrants certified for deportation.—Number cases pending at beginning of month, none; number cases certified for deportation during month, 4; total to be accounted for, 4; number cases deported, none; number cases admitted, 4; passed by immigration commissioner.

F. E. TROTTER,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Executive Officer.

Reports from Matanzas, Cardenas, Isabela de Sagua, and Caibarien.

MATANZAS, CUBA, *March 12, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following sanitary report of the quarantine district under my command for the week ended March 9, 1901:

Matanzas.—Fourteen deaths occurred in the city of Matanzas during